

Friern Barnet School Newsletter

‘Enjoy and Excel’

Summer 2, 2025

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/>



Dear Parent/Carer,

The academic year draws to a close and we can look back on another successful year. I would like to thank everyone for all their help and support over the last eleven months. Two recent events have demonstrated the commitment and dedication of students and staff to the school community. The summer festival was a celebration of our performing arts with over 80 students singing, dancing or playing instruments. Popcorn, candy floss and burgers made for a lovely evening of joy. We also held our annual sports festival at New River athletics track. It was a tremendous day of sport with everyone enjoying a lovely sunny day out together. As Biz Stone (one of the creators of Twitter) said “When you hand good people possibility, they do great things.” Many great things have been done in and out of school this year.

We have recently had some great news from our Young Writers group which took part in a national poetry competition. These competitions are designed to build confidence in the creative writing ability of students, encourage them to write more and may even inspire the next generation of authors. One of our students, Besida was a highly commended winner in the ‘Poetry Escape’ competition. Here is her poem:



I wish you all a very good summer.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Simon Horne
Head Teacher

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If you require a copy of
our newsletter in large
print please contact the
main office on
020 83682777

Attendance matters

Attendance is an incredibly important part of ensuring the continued academic success of our students. We look forward to your continued support.

Here is a reminder about the expectations of attendance for the next school year.

Late Arrivals

Parents and carers, we need your help encouraging your child to leave home in sufficient time to ensure that they arrive to school by 8:30am to avoid being late! Students arriving between 8:40am – 9:00am must go to their form class to be registered.

Students arriving after 9:00am

Students arriving after 9:00am will go directly to Student Services to sign in before receiving a late slip. Arrivals after 9:30am will be classed as unauthorised absences which could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. The threshold for a FPN is 10 sessions (a session is half a day) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

Please Note:

Absences can only be authorised by the school. Calling the school informs us of why your child is absent and the school will decide which code is appropriate. Medical evidence will need to be provided in order to avoid receiving a FPN before or after a school holiday.

Back gate

Please note, the back gate on Crescent Road shuts at 8:40am until the end of the school day. Students who arrive after 8:40am will be asked to walk around to the front entrance on Hemington Avenue.

Punctuality to lessons

In order to maximise learning time it is vital that students are punctual to their lessons. Poor punctuality to lessons is very disruptive to learning. If you have a text from the pastoral team explaining that your child was late to any lessons, please take the time to speak to your child about the importance of this.

Monitoring your child's attendance on Firefly

To help you keep track of your child/children's attendance, you can monitor attendance, lates, authorised and unauthorised absences on Firefly.

Attendance procedures

If your child has a cough or a cold, please send them to school with tissues and a water bottle. We will contact home and offer a paracetamol if required.

If your child is sick and unable to attend school, please call student services before 8:45am.

If your child has a medical appointment during the day, please inform student services of the appointment in advance and supply them with a copy of the appointment letter/appointment card. **Missing registration should be avoided.**

Have a lovely summer break.

Ms S Thomas

Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Year 11(i/c of attendance)

Special thanks....

After 31 years of teaching at Friern Barnet School Alison Snowball is retiring from teaching. This is an incredible commitment to one school and we would all like to thank Alison for everything she has done for students and staff during her time at the school. Alison started at the school as the World Wide Web was being introduced; we were all still trying to understand what a website was. Mobile phones were in their infancy and the Lionesses had still not won the Euros. Alison has been a tremendous member of staff, teaching technology – she can teach everything from textiles to food to product design. Many students will also remember her for the great costumes made for all our school shows. We have had a lot of shows; Alison has been very busy over the years. Alison has also been our school photographer, regularly photographing events and then sharing great photos of students in various poses and outfits. Alison leaves an incredible legacy and we will miss having her here. We all wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life.



Creative Arts

As the school year draws to a close, we've had the most incredible time celebrating all that makes FBS so vibrant and creative. Our amazing summer festival brought together students, staff, families and volunteers for a joyful day filled with music, dance, stalls, and a true sense of togetherness.

Over 80 students performed at our summer festival and we would like to say well done to:

Abiyah, Adora-Bella, Alexia, Ali A, Alma, Ami, An Xin, Ana, Anastasiia Andreea, Angie, Anthony, Arsam Asa, Ava, Ayah, Ayana, Aysa, Ben, Chloe, CJ, Cleo, Connor, Diya, Dylan, Eden, Elia, Elnaz, Evie, Faizah, Finn, Gersa, Hannah, Hazel, Iggy, Ishani, Jack, Jayda, Jess, Jessica-Jade, John, Josh, Jozef, Kassandra, Kayra, Kian, Kianna, Klara, Lai, Liv, Lois, Lucy, Luna, Maame, Maggie, Maia, Mia, Millie, Mojtaba, Nana, Ola, Olivia, Precious, Rafael, Raz, Riyanna, Shantel, Sidney, Sirin, Sumaiyah, Sumaiyyah, Tamerah, Tamzin, Tatsuma, Thenuka, Vivienne and Yuka.

This term has also been packed with exciting trips and workshops, and performance opportunities. Highlights included unforgettable visits to *Mamma Mia where the EAPs participated in a workshop, followed by watching the show. The GCSE music and dance students saw MJ The Musical*, where students sang along, danced in their seats, and came away inspired by the power of performance. The Art Department participated in a wonderful project with year 8 entitled 'Learning Landscapes'. GCSE Drama experienced Noughts and Crosses at the beautiful Regents Park open air theatre and the street dance club performed at 'step into dance' step around town event.

We are now looking forward to some fantastic results, with students awaiting news from their LAMDA exams. Their dedication and creativity have shone through all year, and we're so proud of everything they've achieved — results are expected soon, and we can't wait to celebrate their success. Well done to:

C J - Solo Acting Grade 2, Olivia - Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 1, Sirin - Speaking in Public Grade 1, Jozef - Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 2, Maggie - Speaking in Public Grade 4, Angie - Solo Acting Grade 2, Sidney - Speaking in Public Grade 1, Sean - Speaking in Public Grade 2, Ken- Speaking Verse and Prose Entry Level, Anthony – Solo Acting Grade 1, Iggy - Speaking in Public Grade 1, Abigail - Solo Acting Entry Level, Safa - Speaking in Public Grade 1 and An Xin - Solo Acting Grade 2.

Congratulations to the following students on completing their Bronze Arts Award Qualifications: Kayra, Olivia, Anthony, Tamzin, Sirin, Hazel, Elsa and Adora-Bella.

Creative Arts continued

Finally, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our wonderful music teacher, Ms Davis who is leaving us after seven years. Ms Davis has been a driving force behind so much of our musical life — from being the Musical Director for many of our shows, conducting the orchestra and championing every young performer. She now leaves to complete her master's degree, and while we'll miss her greatly, we're excited for all that lies ahead for her.

Wishing everyone a restful, joyful summer — and we look forward to all the creativity and adventures that next term will bring!

Mamma Mia EAPs workshop



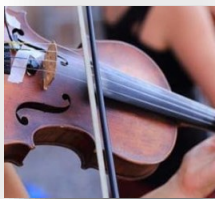
MJ the musical Year 9 and Year 10 Music and Dance



Follow FBS on Twitter and Instagram

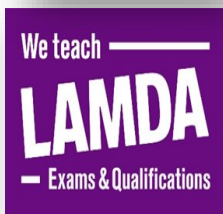


Tuition



1-1 Instrument Tuition

Thank you to those who have booked for next term. The new timetable will be available outside the music room and added onto Firefly. For more information please contact the Creative Arts office.



LAMDA

If your child is interested in doing LAMDA, please email Mr Ghosh at R.Ghosh@friern.barnet.sch.uk for further information.

English

Young City Poets 2024/2025

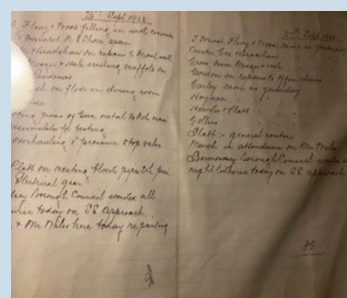


Young City Poets is the National Literacy Trust's annual poetry writing programme, which helps to inspire students to write poetry of their own, based on the city around them and a specific iconic London cultural venue. Over the course of the programme, students met to write together, learn about poetry from their teacher and a professional poet, visit a venue in London, all culminating in some of their poems being published in an anthology to be shared nationwide and a performance at St Paul's Cathedral.

Selected Year 7 students from FBS participated in the programme this year, which commenced in January. Alongside regular workshops with me about 'all things poetry', the group attended a site visit to Tower Bridge. During our visit, students were treated to a guided tour of the museum, as well the opportunity to walk across the glass walkway, if they dared! Using inspiration from the trip, students went away and worked on poems inspired by this iconic landmark, as well as the city itself.

Extract from *Tired Bones of Tower Bridge* by Eden

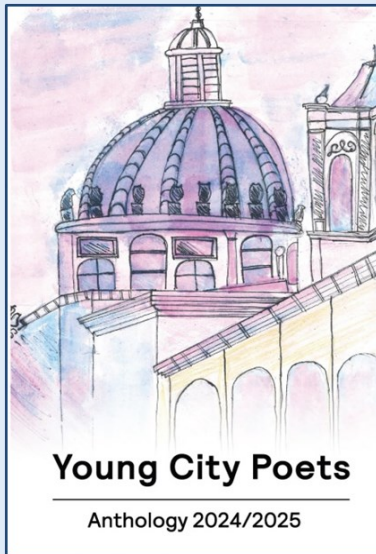
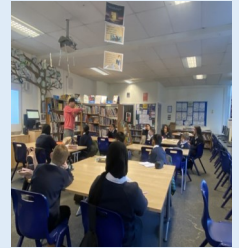
I rise with dawn, though I've never slept,
My tired bones in silence wept.
Steel and stone, rust and chain,
I bear the weight, I take the strain.



A few weeks and a few poem drafts later, the group participated in a workshop with Paul Cree, a professional poet. Paul challenged students to think about including more personal responses in their poems, and he was really impressed by the dedication and creativity on display.

Five months of fun, collaboration and hard work culminated in the creation of fantastic poems, written by our talented students. Many of the YCP poems feature in the YCP Anthology, copies of which can be ordered on Amazon, by clicking [HERE](#).

The main event to celebrate students' efforts was a performance at London's iconic St Paul's Cathedral. Four brave students stood up in front of a large audience to perform their poems beautifully.



Extract from *London's Gaze* by Zaynab

Tower Bridge: I stand so grand,
Raindrops on my walkway,
They gently fall,
It's like a small pool,
People smiling and laughing.

The soft river flows,
Boats drifting by,
Kids with their ice cream
under the soon to be clear sky.

After the rapturous applause and a presentation of certificates, we spent some time exploring the Cathedral. Students then sat down in the stunning St Paul's Cathedral gardens to reflect on their time as Young City Poets. Here are some of their reflections:

I was so happy to see a bridge that I wanted to see since I was little.

Before I performed, I read my poem to Paul Cree and he said it was good. I was so happy.

When I was going to perform I got a bit stressed, but I took a deep breath and did it.

I had a fun time with my friends.

I feel proud of myself.

It felt really great to watch and listen to all the amazing pieces of work and I am really happy for my class mates.

It was really fun to perform in front of other people, knowing my poem might be interesting to them.

I feel very lucky to have visited St Paul's Cathedral and watch my friends performing their poems to a young poet crown. I felt special and happy visiting London, and having a great experience with Paul Cree. I wish I could stay in this school forever!



In post-visit workshops, students engaged with writing activities, which helped to ignite ideas and suggest alternatives for those who had the dreaded writers' block! Alongside the workshops, students did a lot of independent writing, which is commendable.

This second volume of our anthology is like a moonlit reflection, glowing with the energy and support these young writers bring into our shared space. They are the quiet pull of the tides—attentive, receptive, and ever-present in their willingness to listen, read, and offer feedback that is both honest and encouraging. Their ability to help each other rise, much like the moon's influence on the ocean's ebb and flow, creates an atmosphere where creativity can expand and contract freely, offering room for growth while maintaining a steady orbit of support.

What you'll discover within these pages is a selection of the brilliant work these students have crafted through our discussions and feedback. Some pieces seem to respond to one another, as if the words are caught in a shared gravitational pull, creating a dialogue that deepens the collective experience. Our weekly sessions were like the waxing and waning of the moon itself - moments of sharp insight, illuminating bursts of inspiration, and, yes, the occasional hum of the dreaded brutal edit klaxon breaking the stillness! But like the steady pull of the moon, these students have remained committed to their craft, their community, and their growth.

Extract from *I am Tower Bridge*

By Saaqib

It's 3:30 on Thursday eve,
I'm so tired, would you believe?
Feet keep stomping on my back,
Give me rest- just a snack!

Through taking part in the Young City Poets programme, I have been overwhelmed to see how well the students have explored their talent, sharpened their approach to creative writing, as well as their ability to develop and articulate ideas. They have developed a sense of connection to the arts and to their city, and hopefully, a lifelong enthusiasm for poetry and an understanding of the power of poetry to engage readers. I could not be prouder of their achievements.

Well done, poets!

Miss Admoni, Head of English

The Politics of Play – gaming workshop at FBS

On Monday 7 July, a group of selected students took part in a unique and inspiring research-based workshop led by Dr Alison Croasdale, a lecturer from the UCL Institute of Education. Chosen due to their GCSE option choices or teacher recommendations, students spent time exploring how videogame design can be used to express their views on real-world issues in creative and meaningful ways. The workshop, part of a wider research project into creativity and learning in schools, encouraged students to think critically, collaborate, and develop ideas that crossed curriculum boundaries including English, computing, media studies, and art/design.

The workshop not only enhanced students' media literacy—an increasingly vital skill for employability and academic success - but also gave them the chance to contribute to cutting-edge educational research. Under teacher supervision, students were invited to share their reflections through short interviews, offering valuable insights into how creative digital projects can support learning.

We are incredibly proud of how engaged and thoughtful our students were throughout the session and look forward to seeing how these kinds of opportunities can continue to enrich their education.

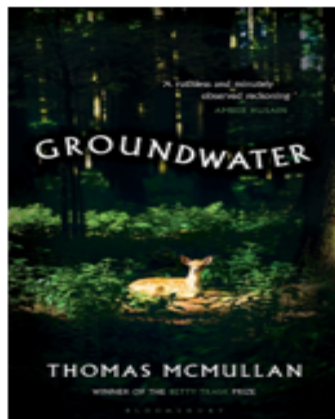


FBS Parent-Staff Book Club – Bonus Summer Reads!

Many thanks to all the attendees of book club this year. It's been fantastic getting to know new faces and reconnecting with past members. As promised, here are your bonus summer reads! I really hope you've enjoyed exploring some new books over the course of the year. Please do get in touch if you read any of them and want to share your thoughts, or if you have suggestions about possible future books to include. Wishing you a restful summer.

Novel:

Groundwater by Thomas McMullan



John and Liz have left the city behind to move to a remote house on the shores of the lake. Though the house is barely unpacked, Liz's sister, with her children and her husband, have come to visit for the August bank holiday weekend.

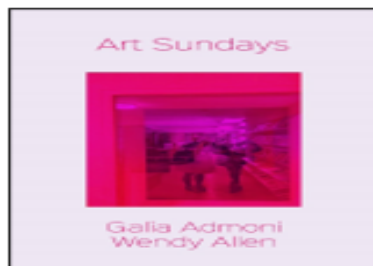
Over the course of a hot, slow weekend, tensions simmer; things go unsaid – between the two couples, between the two sisters. Their time together is punctured by visits from Jim, the solitary local warden for the area; and a group of students camping nearby draw closer and closer, finally infiltrating the house – and bringing their own tensions and hierarchies with them.

As the weekend draws to a close, the landscape reveals a violence that has long lain hidden – and the summer builds to its harrowing climax.

Taut and menacing, full of disquiet and tenderness, *Groundwater* is about the gulfs that lie between us and those we love – and the miraculous ways our deepest desires and fears manifest.

Poetry:

Art Sundays by Galia Admoni and Wendy Allen



If it's not too conceited, I've included my own new book in this year's 'bonus reads' list!

Two women.
Still moments.
Myriad ways of looking.
This is a dazzling account of desire and all its arrangements, set against a backdrop of loss.

– Helen Mort

Short story collection:

After A Dance by Bridget O'Connor

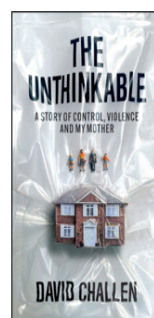


Bridget O'Connor was one of the great short story writers of her generation. She had a voice that was viscerally funny and an eye for both the glaring reality and the absurdity of the everyday.

In *After A Dance*, we meet a selection of O'Connor's most memorable characters often living on the margin of their own lives: from the anonymous thief set on an unusual prize to the hungover best man clinging to what he's lost, to the unrepentant gold-digger who always comes out on top. From unravelling narcissists to melancholy romantics all human life is here – at its best and at its delightful worst.

Non-Fiction:

The Unthinkable: A Story of Control, Violence and my Mother by David Challen



One Saturday in 2010, David's mother struck more than twenty blows to the back of her husband's head with a hammer after thirty years of abuse. She then washed the dirty dishes from the lunch she had just cooked and left the house. In those few minutes, David's life was changed forever.

Over the next decade, he led the fight to overturn her conviction; and in doing so he not only freed his mother and helped change the legal system, but also became a voice for the countless victims of coercive control across the country.

This is a powerful story of a son's love for his mother; of an insidious form of abuse that must be better understood if we are to truly tackle it; and fight that reshaped how society understands domestic abuse.1

Play:

Till the Stars Come Down by Beth Steel



It's Sylvia and Marek's wedding. Over the course of a hot summer's day, a family gathers to welcome a newcomer into their midst. But as the vodka flows and the guests hit the dancefloor, passions boil over and the limits of love are tested.

This is Beth Steel's heartbreaking and hilarious portrayal of a larger-than-life family struggling to come to terms with a changing world.

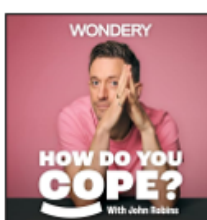
Currently playing in the West End.

Podcasts:



The Elis and John podcast, hosted by Elis James and John Robins, is a comedy show featuring banter, games, and discussions on various topics. Highlights include "Cymru Connection," where Elis tries to find a connection with Welsh callers, and "John's Shame Well", where John absolves listeners of their deepest shames.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005fdz/episodes/downloads>



How Do You Cope? is a BBC Sounds podcast hosted by John Robins, exploring mental health and personal challenges through conversations with guests and personal anecdotes. The podcast delves into topics like addiction, grief, and career changes, aiming to provide insight and support for listeners. It features Robins's trademark humour and frank discussions, often with a focus on how individuals navigate difficult experiences.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/is/podcast/how-do-you-cope/id1793829037>

Young Writers – Poetry Escape competition

We are so excited to announce that **Besida C** has been chosen as a highly commended winner in the Young Writers Poetry Escape competition!

A parcel is on its way to her containing a prize of a £10 National Book Token and a trophy!
Her entry was one of 5 winners chosen as highly commended from over 10,400 entries, so it's an incredible achievement.

Here's what their independent judge Mark Grist had to say about their entry:

Besida, nothing is wasted in your poem and it's so well crafted. The voice is honest, clear, and full of insight. That moment where you reclaim your unfiltered self is really powerful - hard to do in a short space of time! You've got a great instinct for what matters when guiding the reader to a message - and for saying it in a way that sincerely connects. Well done!

Her poem can be viewed on the front page of the newsletter.

Papatango: GoWrite 2025

During the Summer term, 17 students from year 9 successfully completed the Papatango: GoWrite programme, which was facilitated by James Rushbrooke. All students received a copy of their published scripts and were able to watch a screening of their monologues, which were all performed by professional actors.



Papatango Young Playwrights' Award Winner: Salma

On Wednesday 25 June, 10 students from year 9 and 10 attended the Papatango Young Playwrights' Award Showcase at the Park Theatre, to watch Salma Ahmed's monologue: *Pure and Utter Jealousy*. The event was hosted by Matthew Baynton (*Horrible Histories* and *Ghosts*) and showcased eight shortlisted scripts of the 470 already published from the Papatango: GoWrite programme 2023-24. Salma's monologue was performed superbly by actress Simran Bhandari and we were absolutely thrilled for her to be announced as one of the Young Playwrights' Award winners. Congratulations Salma!



FBS Star Reporter

This year, Kamelia in Year 10 took part in *The Young Reporters' Course* which ran from January to April. Every month, she wrote an article that was published on the company's website. She always met her deadlines while still producing exceptional work. At the end, Kamelia received a certificate to acknowledge her achievements.

The editorial director, Toby Granville, was super impressed. He said it was amazing how Kamelia managed to write such great articles while also juggling the school load. He also said her writing has "*a unique viewpoint that enriches the conversation.*" Coming from an editorial director, that is a big achievement. The other compliments include "*you've demonstrated real commitment and creativity, and I want to personally acknowledge the hard work you've put into your articles.*"

For those who know Kamelia, the above sounds familiar and is part of her routine.

As Granville said, writing for a real newspaper while preparing for your GCSEs is not easy, but Kamelia did an awesome job. A big well done for completing the course—we can't wait to read more of her writing in the future!

By An Xin

Read all about it.....

FBS TRUMPET



Our student newspaper provides an opportunity for students to find out about all the activities and fun stuff that goes on at FBS, as well as interesting articles and information. The FBS Trumpet is about celebrating student achievements as well as sharing information about what's going on. We welcome contributions from students in any year group. All you need to do is submit a feature to your English teacher. Enjoy the read!

FBS Trumpet — Friern Barnet School (fireflycloud.net)

LRC Celebrated Pride Month with a Freestyle Writing Competition

As part of Pride Month celebrations, the Learning Resource Centre hosted a freestyle writing competition on Friday 6 June. Students came to the library to create and submit their entries on the spot.

After careful deliberation by the Library Ambassadors, Mustafa from class 8E was announced the winner for his expressive poem. He won a £10 cash prize for his poem.

Congratulations to Mustafa and all the students who took part in the competition! Winner of the Pride Month Writing Competition:

Standing in the middle of the hall
I think the difference of me and the rest of the school
But I know I am not alone
I know people feel the same way
But I get to find one
my feelings over
Well, I see the one for me
But I am scared to ask
his responses his expression
I am alone...
Mustafa in 8E

Inclusion Hub

Our annual farm visit took place on 10 June. Nine pupils came to experience the countryside and food production first hand.

The pupils were introduced to how fruit and vegetables are grown, being brave enough to try raw asparagus, rhubarb and gooseberries amongst others. They were surprised to see where potatoes came from – actually grown underground.

Next was egg production, feeding chickens by hand and collecting eggs which were later cooked at lunch. A visit to the pig paddocks followed where one of our sows 'Annie' had recently given birth and for a while allowed her piglets to be handled until she got a bit grumpy and we had to bail out.

Goats were fed and cattle were given apples. The size of the cows took a few by surprise as did how much poo came out the back end of them with no warning! However, then some were brave enough to help us spray the cows for flies – the flies get rather bothersome at this time of year so we herded up the cows and put them through the cattle race – a sort of tunnel of bars to keep them in place but keeping them and us safe from harm and the pupils sprayed the chemical along the cows backs expertly for first timers.

Honey production followed with the pupils trying honey straight from the comb and Mr Davies taking the plunge with a bee suit in with a hive,

Burgers were superbly made and cooked over an open fire by Shane with some helping hands: A fried egg in a burger was new experience for some.

We were very impressed with how the pupils dived in and really got involved.

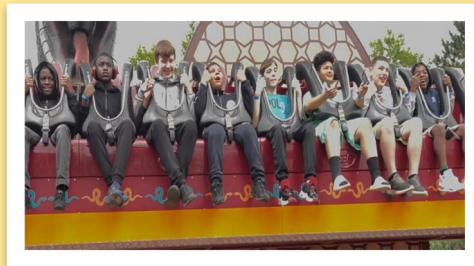
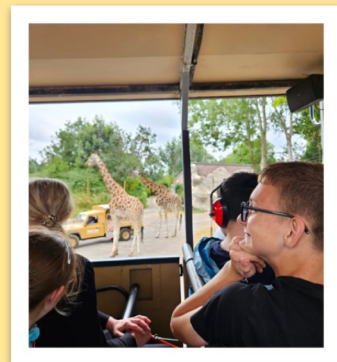
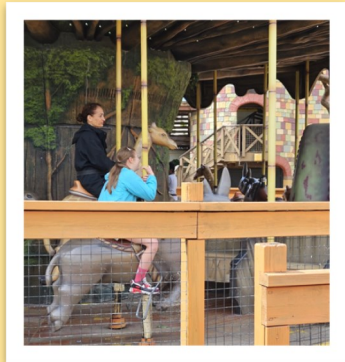
Until next year...

Mr Swanton



Reward trip to Chessington

The SEND students had a fabulous time at Chessington World of Adventures on Wednesday 2 July. Many of them ventured onto the roller coasters while others took the tamer options. The weather was very kind to us, as it was fairly cool most of the day, and although we arrived back later than planned the parents said that their children had had a wonderful time.



Mathematics

On 1 May 100 students from Years 7 and 8 participated in a National Maths Competition. Congratulations to everyone who took part and to the students who achieved either a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate for their outstanding achievements. Results can be viewed below:



Congratulations to Nathan (8B), Mia (7B) and Umar (7B) who were the top 3 students respectively at FBS in the London Rocks Timetable online competition. This was a national Timetable competition run by ttrackstars.com with hundreds of schools participating.

Sports Festival

On Wednesday 9 July students from Years 7 to 10 enjoyed a fantastic day at New River Stadium for our Sports Festival. Students took part in football, sprint races, relays, long jump, high jump, tug of war, javelin and shot putt. Our athletes showcased their talents and sportsmanship.



Barnet Athletics Championships

The FBS Athletics Team competed at the Barnet Championships on 1 July against 30 other Barnet Schools. In the sweltering heat, we had a great day full of success stories! Below are some of the results.

Year 7

Steven G - Javelin 4th place
 Zeynab A - Javelin Gold
 Xander R - Discus Bronze
 Olivia L - Discus Silver
 Joanna Z - Long Jump 4th place

Year 8

Relay boys Gold
 Anas A- 200m Gold
 Annas A- Javelin (TBC)
 Adonijah C- 100m Silver
 Ndunpandala I - Discus Bronze

Year 9

Setayesh Z - Discus Silver
 Setayesh Z - Shot Bronze
 Amelia K - 4th place Javelin
 Arjon C - 70m hurdles Gold
 Arjon C - High Jump Silver
 Evie F - Long Jump Silver



All of the students were such a credit to the school, especially students like Nikolas K and Milo C W who ran the 1500m in unbearable heat. They never quit and tried their very best all day.

Well done to Team PE also for preparing students for this event - we have been running after school practices three times a week leading up to this, it is down to their hard work that so many students had a successful day.

Mr Soave, Head of PE

Wimbledon

On Wednesday 2 July, 19 students were invited to experience a day at the most iconic sporting event in the world – Wimbledon!

Setting off at 6.15am, students made their way from Arnos Grove to the famous Wimbledon Queue battling wind, rain, and a 6-hour wait.

They eventually made it into the grounds where they were not only greeted by the sun, but also an action-packed Wimbledon. Students got to experience high quality tennis, the famous strawberries & cream, and even some celebrity spotting. Everyone displayed high levels of resilience, conduct and tennis etiquette.

After finally returning to Arnos grove, 13 hours later, it's fair to say there were some tired faces. Especially come Thursday morning.

Well done to all involved, and a big thank you to PE teachers Mr. Berrett and Mr. Carruthers for organising and running a special and exciting day.



Science

Energy Quest Comes to Friern Barnet School!!!

On 10 June our year 7 and 8 students learned to think like engineers. Energy Quest, delivered by Engineering UK, challenged students to define problems, test solutions, create prototypes and share their findings - discovering that engineering is about much more than building things.

What Happened on the Day

Students experienced the full engineering process through two hands-on challenges that required them to work like professional engineering teams.

Defining the Problem: Each challenge began with students identifying exactly what they needed to solve. For the phone charging challenge, they had to understand how to generate electrical current. For the water filtration challenge, they needed to figure out how to remove contaminants effectively.

Testing and Creating: Students built prototypes using apples, coins, and nails for phone chargers, and everyday backpack items for water filters. When their first attempts didn't work perfectly, they tested different approaches, modified their designs, and tried again - just like real engineers do.

Sharing Solutions: Teams presented their creations to each other, explaining what worked, what didn't, and what they learned. This sharing process helped everyone understand that there are multiple ways to solve engineering problems.

What Students Gained

Students discovered that engineering isn't about having all the answers - it's about having a process for finding solutions. They learned to:

- Break down complex problems into manageable parts
- Test ideas quickly and learn from what doesn't work
- Collaborate effectively by sharing different perspectives and skills
- Communicate solutions clearly to others
- Iterate and improve their designs based on feedback

Research shows that 72% of students better understand what engineers do after Energy Quest, but more importantly, they develop transferable skills they can use in any subject or future career.

Looking Forward

The problem-solving process students experienced during Energy Quest will continue to benefit them across all their learning. We'll build on these skills by encouraging students to define problems clearly, test their ideas, and share their thinking in other subjects too.

Students now understand that being an engineer means being curious, persistent, and collaborative - qualities that will serve them well whatever path they choose.

A big thank you to the Facilitators, Jed Marshall and Amy Horrocks-Madhok from Alexandra Park School.

Ms Appah, Deputy Head of Science



Able and Ambitious

This term we have been very busy, celebrating the Brilliant Club graduates in Oxford and more recently celebrating the Industrial Cadet groups.

Industrial cadets is a 3 month project in which students are tasked with creating a written report, presentation and posters, all of which is presented to a group of industry experts. The two groups did amazingly well and we came runners up in two categories.

Well done to the following students from year 9: Luna, Setayesh, Angeliki, Avantika, Leilani, Maggie, Cleo, John, Raha and Reece.

On Thursday 12 July Ms Bachelor took a team of students to compete in a debate competition and did very well.

On the same day, we hosted a Stop motion workshop in the main hall in which 50 students from years 7-9 created Wallace and Gromit type short films. The students were really enthusiastic and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

From Ms Bachelor and Mr White, have a good summer and be ready for new opportunities in the next academic year.

Resilient Schools Information

Looking after your mental health through the school holidays:

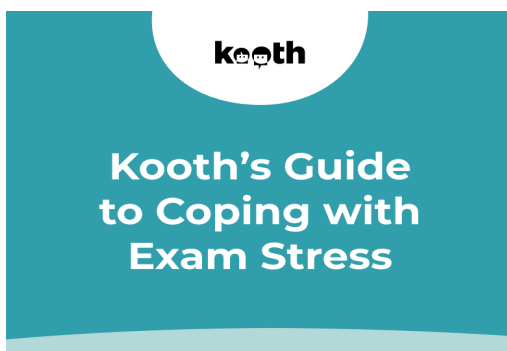
Remember to download the [Kooth](#) app onto your phone if you need online support

1. If you or someone you know is struggling, then please speak to an adult and/or book an appointment with your GP. Remember it is OK to not be OK, it is not a sign of weakness! Ask for help.
2. You can also access lots of support via Firefly, go to *Resources on Firefly => Resilient Schools => Mental Health Support*
3. Take a look at our school website for support with mental health and wellbeing: [Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Friern Barnet School -](#)
4. Stay safe and know that there is lots of support available if you need it.



The holiday period can be difficult for some. If you need support during the summer break, or if someone you know needs extra mental wellbeing support during the holiday season Kooth is still available.

Go to [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) to chat to a practitioner today or to find out more about support.



The Kooth Guide to Waiting For Exam Results. Click on the link for further information:

[**The Kooth Guide to Waiting For Exam Results - Explore Kooth**](#)

Wellbeing for parents/carers



[Support for parents and carers | Barnet Council](#)

Guidance for parents



Keeping your child safe online

Please refer to our school website where parents can access useful websites on how to keep your child safe:

[Safeguarding and E-Safety - Friern Barnet School -](#)

High Achievers Awards for Summer 2025



Art			
Zaynab 7D	Lotte 8E	Georgia 9D	Ana 10C
Business			
			Leonardo 10C
Computing			
Dylan 7B	Klara 8E	Vanessa 9D	
Computer Science			
			Albert 10C
Dance			
Sirin 7F	An Xin 8D	Luna 9B	Lois 10E
Design and Technology			
Nana 7A	Ella-Rose 8A	Karina 9D	Bonan 10D
Drama			
Amelia 7E	Lijana 8D	Ishani 9E	Nirvana 10C
English			
Abigail 7D	Aleena 8F	Kiara 9F	Mikaela 10B
Film Studies			
			Harriette 10D
French			
Asa 7B	Naomi 8B	Ali 9	Chloe 10A
Geography			
Thenuka 7D	Destiny 8E	Elgianna 9C	Behrad 10C
History			
Saaqib 7D	Jessica Jade 8C	Corrina 9E	Salma 10A
Learning Support			
Amina 7D	Rajaunie 8B	Precious 9B	Huseyin 10B
Mathematics			
Gaja 7E	Kazuki 8A	Avantika 9B	Kamelia 10C
Media Studies			
			Ola 10D
Music			
Finn 7E	Liv 8D	Jess 9B	Lena 10E

High Achievers Awards for Summer 2025



PE			
Harry 7F	Adonijah 8B	Hamza 9E	Nathan 10A
Joanna 7B	Angie 8A	Emily 9C	Paulina 10B
Religious Studies			
Shantal 7F	David 8D	Alleen 9C	Shawn 10C
Science			
Melissa 7A	Jayden 8C	Thomas 9B	
Combined Science			
			Jordy 10C
Biology			
			Miraj 10E
Chemistry			
			Maia 10E
Physics			
			Shawn 10C
Spanish			
Elsa 7E	Rose 8F	Yulia 9F	Davide 10E

Celebration events

Jack Petchey Achievement Award celebration on 9 July

The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards are all about celebrating young people's achievements – however big or small.

Students were nominated for their overall consistency of behaviour, effort and academia, active participation of club's societies and for working exceptionally hard. Congratulations to our winners!



Year 11 Prom



Prom was on 7 July at Forty Hall and students joined us to celebrate the end of year exams and making it through to the end of their time at FBS. Students made their grand entrances and they all looked amazing!

The evening started with photographs and a buffet. Later students and staff headed to the dance floor to enjoy the music. It was a night that many will cherish.



Everyone had a fantastic evening and we wish our Year 11 students all the very best for the future.

A big thank you to all involved for planning and attending the event.



One of our students Jaydon from 8A, participated in the Armed Forces Day dinner with the Mayor of Barnet. Jaydon is a member of the Sea Cadets and has had a busy year. He was invited to take part in an event at Buckingham Palace earlier this year and joined the Belgian Armed Forces at the Cenotaph earlier this month.

Well done Jaydon.

Well done!



Two of our Dance Teachers, Ms Andrews and Ms Morgan, had the privilege of watching Elsa from 7E, in her opening performance of 'Ella's big chance' with the London Children's Ballet.

Ms Morgan said "Her performance was beautiful and she shone on the stage with elegance and poise"

Well done Elsa, what an amazing opportunity.

Trips

Noughts and Crosses theatre trip on 1 July

We took our Year 9 and 10 Drama students to see a production of 'Noughts and Crosses' at the Regent's Park Open air theatre on 1st July. The play, based on Malorie Blackman's novel, is studied at GCSE Drama and it was amazing to get to see the play live and outside. The production was gripping, tackling the themes of racism, love and betrayal sensitively, as well as an excellent ensemble performance from the whole cast. The students were a credit to the school, even on the hottest day of the year, their enthusiasm and enjoyment was a pleasure to see!



"The performance was impeccable" Sarina- Year 10

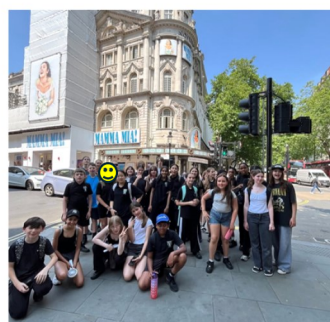
"I loved the staging"- Lois, 10

The characters were excellent at portraying their emotions- Mia, 10



Mamma Mia workshop and theatre trip

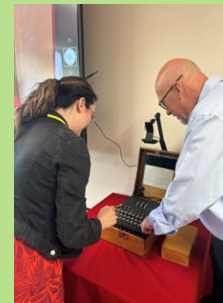
on 19 June.



Bletchley Park A&A trip on 8 July



Mr White and Ms Bachelor took part in one of the decoding workshops at Bletchley Park. Teachers and students had the opportunity to have a hands on experience with one of the Enigma machines.



Information from Bletchley Park website—In January 1940, Bletchley Park made the first British wartime break into the German Enigma cipher – greatly helped by information passed on by Polish cryptographers. However, that first break was only the beginning. Enigma was not a single machine, but a family of machines. Developed for commercial use in 1924, Enigma was adopted by German armed forces from 1926. Its original design was adapted for the German military, secret service and state, and used by Germany's allies. Each change posed a fresh challenge to the Codebreakers. These Enigma machines, held at Bletchley Park, represent some of the many types in use before and during WW2.



Activities during the summer holidays

Barnet Youth
Summer 2025

Free Summer Camps and Activities

Free trips to
Laser Quest, Flip Out and Theatre

Fun Days
Family Fun Park Days, Inflatables, Sports, Yoga, Water Sports

Volunteering
Become a Parent Volunteer and sign up today

barnetyouth.uk

Caring for people, our places and the planet

BACE Holidays: Fully funded by the Department for Education

Logos: Barnet Council, Department for Education, BACE, POSITIVE ACTIVITIES, DE, BARNET

BACE Holidays stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays!

Click on the link for further information:

[Barnet 0-19 Early Help Service - BACE Holidays](#)



CAMP PHOENIX
Youth Activities

SPEND YOUR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH US

Our Camp Phoenix Youth Activities run throughout the school holidays from Easter to October Half Term. Activities are open to anyone aged 9-16 yrs, regardless of whether you have lots of experience or none.

- Paddlesport Courses**
Learn to kayak, open canoe or paddleboard with us through our multi-day courses and off-site river trips.
- Sailing Courses**
Learn to sail through our RYA Dinghy Sailing courses.
- Fun on the Water**
We also run one-off fun sessions. These are a great way to try a new activity or just have some fun on the water.

Logos: RYA, PADDLE, info@phoenixoutdoorcentre.co.uk, www.phoenixoutdoorcentre.co.uk

SHARPSHOOTERS
GOLF

FREE JUNIOR GOLF LESSON TRIAL

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TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS

NEW GOLFERS WELCOME. SPACES LIMITED
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. ONE CLASS, IN LINE WITH SHARPSHOOTERS CALENDAR AGE 5-15 *new clients only

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INFO@SHARPSHOOTERSGOLF.CO.UK

A1 GOLF CENTRE
ROWLEY LANE
ARKLEY, BARNET
EN5 3HW

TEL: 020 8440 0000

OUR HOLIDAY CAMPS HAVE FOUR SESSIONS PER DAY:

- 1 FUN AND ENGAGING WARM UP ACTIVITIES
- 2 ATTACKING SKILL PRACTICES IN A RANGE OF SCENARIOS
- 3 DEFENSIVE SKILL PRACTICES IN A RANGE OF SCENARIOS
- 4 GAME BASED ACTIVITIES, WHERE SKILLS ARE APPLIED TO A MATCH

ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME

PIVOTAL NETBALL ACADEMY
HIGHLANDS SCHOOL, ENFIELD N21 1QQ

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT

RECEPTION TO YEAR 10
10AM - 3PM
£32 PER DAY
(HALF DAYS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

28 MAY
29 MAY
30 MAY

22 JULY
23 JULY
24 JULY

12 AUG
13 AUG
14 AUG

27 AUG
28 AUG
29 AUG

07392 018 982 WWW.PIVOTALNETBALL.COM

BASKETBALL LESSONS & COURSES

BETTER

For children aged 7-15 years old, every Monday 17.00-18.00 (11-15 yr/old) Lessons will be delivered by a qualified coach and have to be booked in advance. Book online www.better.org.uk



We use the Firefly Parent Portal to inform parents/carers about their child's learning, progress and achievements. We are expecting all our parents to activate an account so that they can access a range of information which will keep them updated on essential matters about school.

Firefly allows Parents to:

- View your child's electronic school report
- View your child's timetable including their current and next lessons
- View your child's home learning
- Keep your personal contact details up to date

Please click on the link for further information on how to activate your Firefly account:

[Firefly Parent Portal - Friern Barnet](#)

School Shop

Parents/carers can buy revision guides, stationery items, tickets for school shows, and school ties on our School Shop. The link can be found under the Parents and Students menu on the website or click on the link below:



[Friern Barnet School \(parentpay.com\)](#)

Canteen

The canteen is open at the following times:

Breakfast: 8.15am – 8.40am

Break: 11.00am – 11.20am

Lunch: Key Stage 3: 12.20pm - 12.55pm and Key Stage 4: 1.20pm - 1.55pm

Topping up lunch accounts - school dinner money needs to be added via ParentPay before 10.30am to allow students to be able to buy lunch on the same day. We recommend topping up over the weekend as ParentPay can be busy on Monday mornings sometimes causing delays with payments.

Just a reminder, when making payments can we ask you not to use the 'One click' payment method as this can take up to 7 days to clear which then delays money going onto your child's lunch account. The best way is to add money to the basket and check out using 'Other Payment Methods'.

Daily spend limit— there is a default daily spend limit of £3.50 and no food costing above that limit can be bought. This limit can only be changed by emailing school@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Students on Free School Meals can spend up to £2.86 a day. Parents/Carers are welcome to top up their lunch accounts.

Help - if your child needs help with their pin code, finger print or they have been told they do not have sufficient funds on their account, please remind them to come to the main office so we can help them as we do not want anyone to go hungry.

Reminders and notices

Dates to Remember

Thursday 21 August	GCSE Results Day, refer to the website for further information
Monday 1 September	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 2 September	Year 7 students start school (Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 students stay at home) and Year 11 online Kick Start meetings
Wednesday 3 September	All students in for the start of the autumn term
Thursday 18 September	Open Evening
Friday 10 October	School photographs, individual pictures for Years 7 and 10 and Year 11 group photograph
Monday 27 - Friday 31 October	Half term holidays
Friday 19 December	Last day of the autumn term

Please click on the link for term dates: [link](#)

For a more comprehensive list of dates, please visit the school website: www.friern.barnet.sch.uk

From Student Services

Absence

Please report your child's absence each day by 8.45am, clearly stating their name, form class and reason for absence. You can either call 020 8368 2777 and press Option 1 'To report your child absent' or email: attendance@friern.barnet.sch.uk

For medical or other appointments during the school day, notification is required **in advance**. Routine appointments/check-ups should be made out of school hours wherever possible.

Non-medical absences

Permission for all non-medical absences must be authorised by Mr Robinson, Assistant Head Teacher. Please fill in a leave of absence form and email it, in advance, to school@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Medication at school

Parents/Carers must complete and return a medical form to the main office when their child requires medication. All medication must be supplied by the parent/carer and needs to be in its original packaging including the prescription label. All medication, including pain medication or antihistamines, need to be stored in Student Services. **Students should not be carrying around any medication in their bags or taking medication without staff supervision.**

School Streets

Just a reminder to parents/carers, if you are driving your child to and from school please remember vehicles are not permitted to enter Hemington Avenue or Bethune Avenue/The Ridgeway, N11, from 8.00 - 9.00 am and 2.45 - 3.45 pm

Mobile Phones

A reminder that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones whilst at school. Thank you for your support with this clear school rule.

Contact Details

Please let us know by emailing school@friern.barnet.sch.uk if you have changed any contact details or moved house as soon as possible.

ParentPay contact details

If your mobile number or email address has changed, please up date your details on ParentPay so you do not miss out on any important information.